ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and system which provides communication between a first portable device (e.g., a smart card) having a first storage device and a second portable device (e.g., also a smart card) having a second storage device. This is performed using, preferably, an authenticated system message. The first storage device stores thereon a first sequence number and a first key (e.g., a first global signing key), and the second storage device stores thereon a second sequence number and a second global signing key (e.g., a second global signing key). The first sequence number is compared to the second sequence number. If the second sequence number is newer than the first sequence number, a verification is performed using the first and second keys. Then, the first sequence number is set to have a value of the second sequence number if the verification succeeds. At least one of the first and second portable devices may receive an authenticated system message which includes a command. In another embodiment of the present invention, a method and system is provided to determine an approximate current time using the first and second portable devices. In particular, the first sequence number is compared to the second sequence number. The first sequence number is indicative of a first time provided on the first portable device, and the second sequence number is indicative of a second time provided on the portable device. If the second time is newer than the first time, a verification is performed using the first and second keys, and the first sequence number is set to have a value of the second sequence number if the verification succeeds.